

What is claimed is:

1. A multi-phase clock generation circuit

2 comprising:

3 reference clock signal generation means for  
4 generating  $2^n$  (n is a positive integer) reference clock  
5 signals having the same frequency, the plurality of  
6 reference clock signals having different phases;

7 first frequency division means for  
8 frequency-dividing one of the plurality of reference  
9 clock signals from said reference clock signal  
10 generation means by 2 to generate first and second clock  
11 signals  $180^\circ$  out of phase with each other on the basis  
12 of frequency division outputs;

13 first clock selection means for selecting one  
14 of each of the first and second clock signals from said  
15 first frequency division means and a corresponding  
16 reference clock signal and outputting the selected  
17 signals as first and second clock pulses;

18 second to nth frequency division means each of  
19 which frequency-divides a clock pulse from said first  
20 clock selection means to generate  $(2^m - 1)$ th to  
21  $(2^{m+1} - 2)$ th (m is a positive integer of not less than 2)  
22 clock signals  $180^\circ$  out of phase with each other on the  
23 basis of frequency division outputs;

24 second to nth clock selection means each of  
25 which selects one of each of the clock signals from said

26 second to nth frequency division means and a  
27 corresponding one of the reference clock signals to  
28 output the selected signals as  $(2^m - 1)$ th to  $(2^{m+1} - 2)$ th  
29 clock pulses; and  
30 clock selection control means for controlling  
31 said first to nth clock selection means in accordance  
32 with a set frequency division ratio.

2. A circuit according to claim 1, wherein said  
2 clock selection control means comprises frequency  
3 division number setting means for setting a frequency  
4 division number for a clock signal output from  
5 predetermined clock selection means.

3. A circuit according to claim 1, wherein  
2 said circuit further comprises first-stage  
3 frequency division means for generating a clock signal  
4 from an arbitrary one of the plurality of reference  
5 clock signals, and  
6 said first frequency division means generates  
7 first and second clock signals  $180^\circ$  out of phase with  
8 each other by frequency-dividing the generated clock  
9 signal by 2.

4. A circuit according to claim 1, wherein  
2 each of said first to nth frequency division  
3 means comprises D flip-flop circuits and inverters.

5.           A circuit according to claim 4, wherein an  
2 output terminal of a predetermined D flip-flop circuit  
3 of the D flip-flop circuits is connected to an input  
4 terminal of another D flip-flop circuit forming said  
5 frequency division means.

6.           A circuit according to claim 5, wherein a  
2 clock signal output from a predetermined D flip-flop  
3 circuit and a clock signal input to another D flip-flop  
4 circuit have the same timing.

7.           A circuit according to claim 1, further  
2 comprising clock shut-off means for shutting off at  
3 least some of clocks input to said first to nth clock  
4 selection means which are not in use.

8.           A circuit according to claim 3, wherein said  
2 first-stage frequency division means comprises  
3               a D flip-flop circuit, and  
4               an inverter.

9.           A circuit according to claim 1, wherein said  
2 reference clock signal generation means comprises a PLL  
3 circuit.

10.          A circuit according to claim 1, further

2 comprising reference clock signal selection means for  
3 selecting an arbitrary reference clock signal of the  
4 plurality of reference clock signals which is input to  
5 said first frequency division means.

11. A circuit according to claim 3, further  
2 comprising reference clock signal selection means for  
3 selecting an arbitrary reference clock signal of the  
4 plurality of reference clock signals which is input to  
5 said first-stage frequency division means.

12. A multi-phase clock generation circuit  
2 comprising:  
3 reference clock signal generation means for  
4 generating  $2^n$  ( $n$  is a positive integer) reference clock  
5 signals having the same frequency, the plurality of  
6 reference clock signals having different phases;  
7 first to  $n$ th frequency division means each of  
8 which frequency-divides one of an input reference clock  
9 signal and a clock by 2 to generate  $(2^p - 1)$ th to  
10  $(2^{p+1} - 2)$ th ( $p$  is a positive integer of not less than 1)  
11 clock signals  $180^\circ$  out of phase with each other on the  
12 basis of frequency division outputs;  
13 first to  $n$ th clock selection means each of  
14 which selects one of each of clocks signal from said  
15 first to  $n$ th frequency division means and a  
16 corresponding one of the reference clock signals to .

17 output the selected signals as  $(2^p - 1)$ th to  $(2^{p+1} - 2)$ th  
18 clock pulses; and  
19 clock selection control means for controlling  
20 said first to nth clock selection means in accordance  
21 with a set frequency division ratio.